

WELCH BROS.,

GREAT BEND, KANSAS.

Men with one idea are often worse than those with none.

Queen Victoria's silverware at Windsor castle is valued at \$12,500,000.

Turkey has had a change of cabinet, but its real need is a change of population.

There are still more women than men in Massachusetts, but they don't count politically.

With good flour \$3.25 per barrel, apples \$1 per barrel and potatoes 20 cents a bushel nobody ought to go hungry this winter.

The Icemen have already begun to talk about a poor crop of ice. They should not be so easily discouraged. There may be several chilly days yet before spring opens.

The Indiana Suspender Company has assigned. There is nothing very remarkable in that; it was its regular business to suspend. But it should brace up now.

A woman accidentally dropped into her husband's office yesterday and discovered him using one of her biscuits as a paper weight. The neighbors say the suspense is dreadful.

From the number of long dispatches that the United States and Great Britain are sending each other, it would seem that they had adopted the prize-ring method of fighting.

That earthquake shock is now believed to have been nothing more serious than an ultimatum on its way from England to some South American republic on the Pacific coast.

A Cincinnati policeman has been fined \$100 for kissing a woman while on duty. For self-protection our own pretty boys in blue should adopt muzzles without a moment's delay.

As the result of a fever Richard Mansfield has forgotten the lines of all his plays. In Mr. Mansfield's case this is a misfortune, but we could mention some cases in which it would be a god-send to the public.

Major Quinn, United States engineer in charge of the lighthouses in the New Orleans district, says that the lower delta and the sea marshes along the Gulf of Mexico are slowly sinking. For more than a year experiments with the gauges have been in progress at the mouth of the Mississippi river, and, as a result, Major Quinn has reached the conclusion that the level of the gulf has been raised one foot since 1877. This the major attributed to a gradual though irregular subsidence of the land along the coast, and, he believes, throughout the Mississippi delta and the southern portion of Louisiana.

The tenth anniversary of the introduction of the modern bicycle was celebrated in London last week, when J. K. Starley entertained a number of persons prominent in the cycling world. In 1885 the Rover safety was introduced by Messrs. Starley and Sutton, and in that year S. Golder created a world's record by riding fifty miles on the road in 3 hours 5 minutes and 45 seconds. Ten years later—last September—J. Platt Betts rode fifty miles on the path on a Rover in 1 hour 48 minutes and 38 2-5 seconds. E. R. Shipton incidentally stated that the first bicycle was invented by a Scot in 1846, and Mr. Starley said the cycling trade was now ten times larger than in 1885.

In a report to the Department of State Consul Meeker of Bradford says that the United States consular service is at present being held up to public view in England as a model after which the English government should copy. This compliment comes not from mere tyros or theorists, but is bestowed by a very eminent authority in the United Kingdom—the executive Council of the Association of Chambers of Commerce. The attention of the executive council was called to the action of the government of the United States in supplying its traders and business men with information up to date, by means of consular reports, with regard to openings for business in foreign countries, and that body has requested the government to provide for consular reports such as are made by the consular service of the United States. Mr. Meeker says it may be of interest to the public to know that the work of our consular officers is, as a general rule, very highly spoken of by British merchants and tourists. Our consuls are given credit for zeal, intelligence and great activity, and their willingness to oblige traders and travelers with useful information is often referred to. The English newspapers constantly publish extracts from consular reports issued by the Department of State and the information given is not infrequently made use of by the exporters, investors and engineers of the United Kingdom.

FREE TRADE POLICY WILL NOT GO UNDER.

Sold Standard and Free Trade Will Be the Democratic Battle Cry Next Year—Let the Free Silver Cranks Go Into Republican Party.

Under the tariff protection which is said to be laid primarily for the purpose of enriching and ennobling American labor manufacturers have amassed colossal fortunes. American labor has largely disappeared in mills and shops of all kinds. Its place has been taken by Huns, Uolacks, Russians and Italians, imported free, there being no custom house tax upon labor.

Pampered by Republican legislation of more than a quarter of a century, laid in its excesses as a war measure and maintained because protected industries had tasted blood and would not readily yield advantage, great corporations in this country have dealt by their labor unjustly, cruelly and harshly. The American laborer has gone into other fields. He has taken up lands or he has found occupation for himself elsewhere. The class of men taking his place are not of the highest, though they are some of the fiercest at times. Companies, instead of enriching and ennobling these men, have used their advantages to treat them as villains and serfs. The insufficient wage they have given them at times has been taken back from them for rents and through truck stores. Stockades have been built about them as though they were prisoners. The law has still looked to the protection of all citizens, even of aliens. To make appeal to the law a nullity insolent employers of labor that have tagged men with numbered bits of brass as if they were cattle instead of men are going so far as to compel the parents or guardians of children upon their pay rolls—children who ought never be there while adult labor is to be had—to sign contracts in their behalf as a condition of their employment that they shall hold the company harmless for any injury that may be sustained by them in the performance of perilous labor.

At the end of a long litigation such a contract might be pronounced void and of no effect, but the tariff which its friends and beneficiaries say was designed to enoble and enrich American labor does not give that American labor sufficient surplus to warrant its contesting a long litigation. The companies have the benefit of these contracts.

Such treatment of labor as the requirement as to children is monstrous. It comes from those industries that are still clamoring for more protection, still asserting falsely that a high tariff is laid primarily in the interest of labor. It comes from McKinleyites. It is the inevitable accompaniment of McKinleyism, which impoverishes and degrades labor.

The Tariff and Shoddy. Says the Inter-Ocean: "Under operation of the Wilson-Gorman tariff the imports of shoddy have increased 147 fold. This means that there are 147 times more shoddy clothing worn in the United States than when the McKinley law levied a duty of 30 cents per pound on the vile stuff."

Breathes there a Republican with head so thick as to take that in? If it were true that the imports of shoddy had increased as stated under the law it would not follow by any means that our people were wearing 147 times more shoddy clothing than they were before. We have plenty of shoddy mills of our own and their number and output have increased enormously under Republican protection of the noble shoddy industry.

We are importing about eight times as much clothing wool as we imported under the McKinley law. Reasoning Inter-Ocean fashion, our people are wearing eight times as much all-wool clothing as they wore when the McKinley law was in force. They are wearing a good deal more, but not quite eight times as much. Nor are they wearing 147 times as much shoddy or twice as much. Of woolen rags and all kinds of "waste," including shoddy, we are importing about eighteen times as much as we did under the old law, but it does not follow that a single pound more is put into the clothing of the people. The total import of shoddy and all wastes and rags is comparatively small. It is only one pound to more than twenty-three pounds of wool imported.

Shoddy has its legitimate uses, as in making felts, and for such uses the imports no doubt have increased. The great increase in the importation of clothing wool tells the story as to the clothing of the people. If the Republicans do not believe it, if they think the people are longing for the restoration of McKinley duties and prices for woolen goods, let them pass the McKinley wool schedule during the coming session of congress and see where they will land a year from now.—Chicago Chronicle.

Not as Bad a Wreck. Lawrence Gazette: McKinley was in a railroad accident recently, but it was no such wreck as he and his fellow brigands caused in order that they might plunder the people.

Related Warriors.

Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts and Dolph of Oregon have joined the army of republican senators who are rallying about that intrepid leader, "Bill" Chandler to undertake the conquest of the world.

Lodge cables all the way from Paris his high defiance of all effete nations of Europe and his demand for a foreign policy made up of ultimatums. Dolph telegraphs his war cry from Oregon. The westerner is a trifle more turgid of language than the scholar in politics, but no whit more bloodthirsty. He demands that the Monroe doctrine be upheld, if necessary, at the point of the sword, and that Cuba be taken under the protective wing of the American eagle—expensive and doubtful enterprises both.

It is not by mere coincidence that so many republican senators from such widely separated points of vantage sound the war tocsin. Clearly there is a well-defined understanding between them. It is only one move in the game of politics. Fearing to enter another presidential campaign as defenders of McKinleyism, estopped from making the fight for sound money by their alliance with mining camp senators and by their rotten record of mismanagement of the currency, the republicans seek to inject a new issue into the presidential campaign. They have chosen the sentimental issue of the domination of the United States in the eastern hemisphere and purpose pressing it to the point of war if it serve their partisan purpose. The chorus already begun by Chandler, Dolph and Lodge will swell to deafening volume before the eyes of March.

It is politics only, though. They don't really want war, these noisy jingoes. There has been war, grim and earnest enough, in these United States of sufficiently late date for these worthies to have distinguished themselves on hard-fought fields, shedding their blood for their country. But you may scan with microscopic intentness the records of the gallant deeds done by flood and field during those years of our national trial without once encountering the shining name of Chandler, Lodge or Dolph.

Only One Side to the Bargain.

New York World: However much it is to be condemned by everyone who believes in fair trade, the action of the leather trust is logical. In shutting down a hundred tanneries and locking out 15,000 men for a month it seeks to so "restrain trade" as to force up prices. This is the ultimate object of all monopoly combinations. Their talk of combination as "a means of cheapening the cost of product" is specious humbug. When they combine it is in the hope of coercing the public and suspending the first law of fair trade—the law that it "takes two to make a bargain." Every trust intends that there shall be only one side to a bargain—the trust side.

Too Much Even for Jingo Editors.

In their frantic efforts to assail the foreign policy of President Cleveland, which has adhered with firmness and dignity at all points to the old American lines laid down by Washington and Jefferson, the ultra-jingo statesmen are overreaching themselves. The recent hysterical manifestoes of Chandler and Lodge have had but few indorsing echoes even in the jingo press. Even the average jingo editor has enough appreciation of the common sense of the average American citizen to refrain from approving the mad and immoral proposal to provoke a great war with the one foreign nation with which, if for no other than commercial reasons, it is desirable that we should maintain an honorable peace.

The Negro, North and South.

Washington Post: What does the north do for the negro that the south does not? Occasionally some law, like that idiotic statute enacted by the New York legislature at its last session, makes a false pretense of wholesale recognition; but where in any northern community does the individual negro find that personal sympathy and kindness which is his without the asking everywhere beyond the Potomac? We have known of instances where a New Jersey seashore hotel was depopulated in a single day at the very height of the season, because the negro servants dared, during the interval of rest, to promenade on the same sands and plank walks and breathe the same air as the white guests.

Growth of the Pension List.

New York World: The past fiscal year is marked by one of the most interesting events in the history of the country. The pension roll passed the million mark. The country has now the distinction of providing for a larger number of military pensioners than were ever carried on the rolls of any government.

The New Tariff Vindicated.

Springfield Register: The increase in the amount of exports under the democratic tariff is becoming one of the most prominent factors in the business situation. An increase of exports is always regarded as a healthy business sign, and the gain already shown under the new democratic tariff furnishes another vindication of its wisdom.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A new bank has been organized at Kirwin, Kan., with a capital of \$50,000.

The Knights of Labor convention at Washington declare for the recognition of Cuba.

A Business Men's Association has been organized at Mexico, Mo.

It is generally believed the Pabst-Mather divorce suit will be settled out of court.

The Peace Association of Friends has asked all ministers to preach on "International Arbitration" on Peace Sunday.

The cost of the maintenance of the life-saving service during the year was \$1,345,324.

While intoxicated, Tom Brewer, a farmer of Alicia, Ark., fell from a train and broke his neck.

Robert Clark, sr., a prominent Missouri politician, died suddenly of heart disease at Kirksville.

Senator Mills of Texas advocates putting an anti-civil service plank in the next Democratic platform.

R. S. Day, one of New Orleans' most prominent men, was accidentally killed while hunting for burglars.

Senator McMillan says that the lake States cities are not anxious to have warships built on the lakes.

The Henry O. Shepard company, a printing firm of Chicago, has assigned.

Bicycle manufacturers expect to put 1,000,000 wheels on the market during 1906.

William Caton, aged 18 years, was killed at Sedalia in a runaway accident. He was thrown from a wagon and dragged for several hundred feet, his body being badly mangled.

At Oklahoma City Okla., Farris Cox, a fero dealer, shot Al Wagner, a well known sporting man, in the Turf saloon. The shot took effect in Wagner's left shoulder, coming out of his mouth, and it is believed it will prove fatal.

Judge Webb, of the Acheson Kansas District court, refused the application of the attorneys for R. C. Meade for a change of venue to Wyandotte county. Meade will be tried in Acheson county this month.

Commander Miyaoka, naval attache of the Japanese legation at Washington, has made a strong report to the naval department of Japan on the merits of the United States battleship Indiana. This report, coming at a time when Japan is looking abroad for new battleships and cruisers will, it is believed, be favorable to securing some of the contracts for American ship builders.

Kayton L. Skinner and Annie B. Curry, daughter of the warden of the Kentucky State prison at Eddyville, have been married under peculiar circumstances. Skinner was received in 1892 for killing Martin Bigwood and came near dying in prison. The warden's daughter nursed him and interceded after his recovery with Governor Brown for a pardon, after which the couple eloped to St. Louis. Warden and Mrs. C. L. Curry have forgiven them and they will return to Kentucky.

There is great excitement in the Choctaw nation over the final passage of the bill making it treason, punishable by death, to sell land to a non-citizen, to attempt in any way to curtail the powers of the Choctaw government or to talk or urge a change of government or the allotment of lands or opening of the country to settlement. This law will stop all meetings or conventions in favor of progress or treating with the government, and effectually muzzle the press of that part of the territory.

At Kansas City Mo., Wallace G. Miller, clerk for Justice of the Peace Owen W. Krueger, was found guilty of having committed fraud while officiating as judge of election in the Sixth precinct, Second ward, at the election last November. The jury fixed Miller's punishment at two years in the penitentiary. He is the first of the alleged election thieves to receive a penitentiary sentence and the fourth one to be tried.

At Columbia, Mo., the State University football team defeated the Iowa team by a score of 34 to 0.

Since Schlatter's disappearance over 10,000 letters addressed to him have been received at the Denver postoffice.

Mexico is entering into competition with the United States in the direct cattle trade with Europe.

Ex-Judge Henson, sentenced to the Missouri penitentiary for twenty years in 1888, for murder committed in Stoddard county, was pardoned.

The Sedalia Morning Star has changed hands, the plant and good will being purchased by Van B. Wisler of the Sentinel.

The Chicago city and county building cracked in the middle from settling.

Colonel W. H. Phelps of Missouri is in Washington, and says that Morrison is the strongest candidate the Democrats can nominate for president.

Kansas-University football team defeated Nebraska University by a score of 8 to 4.

Rev. S. F. Smith, composer of "America," dropped dead in Boston. Brigadier General Brook, in his annual report, says that nothing of note has taken place in the department of the Dakotas since the great railroad strike of 1894.

At Kansas City, Mo., Charles F. Early, a painter of Topeka, was knocked down and killed in front of ex-Alderman Foley's saloon, by unknown parties, who escaped.

At San Jose, Cal., a bright comet was discovered in constellation Virgo by Mr. B. D. Perrin, at Lick observatory, in right ascension thirteen hours, forty-four minutes, forty; declination one degree and forty minutes.



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